

A “Thank You” from the Town of Raymond to NH-DRED Commissioner Jeffrey Rose

The Raymond Board of Selectmen and the Business and Economic Development Council were proud to host an important event billed as the *2014 Raymond Economic Development Summit – All Roads Lead to Raymond*, held at the Regional Economic Development Center of Southern New Hampshire. The guest speakers at this well-attended event included New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development Commissioner Jeffrey Rose, along with two of his professional and knowledgeable staff members, Business Recruiter Michael Bergeron and Economic Development Specialist Christopher Wellington.

Commissioner Rose exhibited the depth and breadth of his knowledge of New Hampshire and its unique setting in the New England economic development landscape. He proved himself to be approachable, affable and a wonderful communicator about the benefits of doing business in our great State. He underscored the importance of establishing community partnerships with private sector, local government, and state government as key elements in any Economic Development Strategy.

Upon completion of Commissioner Rose’s opening remarks, Town Manager Craig Wheeler presented a *Proclamation of Appreciation* on behalf of the Town of Raymond, stating in part that, “The Raymond Business and Economic Development Council expresses its deep appreciation to Commissioner Jeffrey Rose and his professional economic development staff for visiting the Town of Raymond in an effort to assist the Town in its mission.”

Following Commissioner Rose, Economic Development Specialist Christopher Wellington outlined a list of programs that NH-DRED has in its arsenal to assist both existing businesses and those that the State of New Hampshire targets in its recruitment efforts.

The audience listened with rapt attention as Business Recruiter Michael Bergeron presented in-depth information about economic trends, demographics, debt profiles of different age groups, employment statistics and data on where Raymond citizens work (73% of the workforce in Raymond commutes out of town to their jobs).

Michael then deftly steered his analysis to Town of Raymond economic development, focusing in on the Exits 4 and 5 development areas, which have direct access to NH Route 101. He stressed the fact that Raymond has great access to transportation corridors, which makes it an ideal candidate for warehousing and distribution.

He went on to offer solid advice on how to appeal more to businesses looking to locate in Raymond, from having a welcoming and friendly attitude from employees and committee, commission and board members, to reflecting a welcoming ambiance in the way town hall is physically laid out. He quoted former Commissioner George Bald, who said often, “Attitude and patience is more important than water and sewer.”

Michael offered advice on website presentation, showing the active side of a community by sharing photos of people and not just things. Jen O’Neill, Chair of the Business and Economic Development Council stated, “The advice offered by this professional was practical, implementable and insightful.”

“This was a great opportunity at a new direction for the community – one that proves all roads do lead to Raymond.” remarked Craig Jewett, President of Jewett Construction, Inc.

The Town of Raymond expresses its deepest appreciation to Commissioner Rose, Michael Bergeron and Christopher Wellington for spending the hours assisting, advising and educating us in the extremely important area of economic development in New Hampshire and for our town.



*Raymond Town Manager Presenting to
Commissioner Rose*

Craig Wheeler, Town Manager
Raymond, New Hampshire

Ernest M. Cartier Creveling
Community Development/Admin. Services Director